

# **Microelectronics-Photonics (microEP) Graduate Program**

## **Assessment of Student Academic Achievement**

**Updated August 27, 2006**  
**Prof. Ken Vickers, Director**

### Goals

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The microEP program at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, is an interdisciplinary graduate program designed to expand a student's knowledge beyond the boundaries of traditional departmental based graduate programs. Students in the Microelectronics-Photonics program will participate in cross-departmental research, will take applications-intensive classes from multiple engineering and science departments, and will develop workplace management skills in a simulated industrial environment.

The outcome of their graduate education in this interdisciplinary environment will be a high level of expertise in micro and nano materials, processing, and devices; including high-performance integrated systems created from these materials and devices in such areas as electronic, photonic, mechanical, and chemical/biological systems. Graduates of the microEP grad program will also master the economics that affect successful introduction of these devices and systems into industry and the community.

## Method of evaluation

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1. Exit interviews with each graduating student will be performed by either the Program Director or the supervising administrator of the microEP Grad Program (currently the Associate Dean of the Graduate School) in which the student will be asked:
  - a. What did she or he feel was beneficial about the program?
  - b. What did she or he feel was lacking in the program?
  - c. How could the program be changed to improve it?A summary of each exit interviews will be filed in the microEP program office.
2. Each student will complete either an oral defense of his or her MS thesis, non-thesis MS project, or PhD dissertation. After that defense, the evaluating faculty will assess the student's academic performance in their written and oral work as a method to assess if the microEP graduate program accomplished its academic goals. These evaluations by the evaluating faculty will be filed in the microEP program office.
3. The Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC) of the microEP Graduate Program will meet annually during the spring semester to review program objectives and accomplishments. Part of that assessment is viewing research results presentations by students approaching the end of their graduate degree. The input from the IAC will be documented and distributed to the microEP faculty for consideration for needed program changes.
4. The Graduate Studies Committee of the microEP Graduate Program will meet once during the summer to review all evaluation documents in order to assess whether program changes are needed. Proposed changes will be presented to the microEP faculty in August of each year before the start of classes, and needed changes will be input into the fall approval cycle of the Engineering College, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, and the Walton College of Business.
5. The microEP program will perform external surveys of alumni and their direct supervisors every three years, beginning in the 2006-2007 academic year.